Flight Surgeon Refresher Course

Section 4: Aviation Safety

Introduction (FSRC400)







AVIATION SAFETY

Introduction

Safety is something that is often not given enough attention by Flight Surgeons. This is most likely because there is an "Aviation Safety Officer (ASO)" who is clearly responsible for safety and the Flight Surgeon often adopts the attitude of "safety-is-not-my-lane." AR 40-3 tells us otherwise:

"...the flight surgeon will promote the health and safety of aviation personnel by instituting a health education program and monitoring the conditions and hazards present in the work environment. The flight surgeon will advise the command when potential safety problems are identified."

Topics covered in this module include: Aviation Life Support Equipment, Risk Management, and accident investigation.

Risk Management is the language that the commanders speak and is a vital part of the Aviation Safety program. It is how we do things in the Army, and as Flight Surgeons, we are "aeromedical risk managers" acting on behalf of our commanders. Contrary to often prevailing opinion, Risk Management is not a way to get out of doing tough jobs; it is a way to do tough jobs safely.

You will become familiar with the regulations governing

Army Safety including: FM 10-14, Risk Management; AR385-10, the Army Safety Program; AR380-40, the Accident Reporting and Records; and DAPAM 38540, Army Accident Investigation Reporting.

Accident investigation is a cornerstone of the Army Safety Program. Through quality investigations, we are able to identify flight safety hazards and evolve procedures, policies, and operational practises into a safer, more effective program. Some success stories from the Army Aviation Safety Program are the HGU56P helmet, which is a marked improvement over the SPH4 and earlier models; crash worthy fuel systems, crash worthy seats, and Nomex flight suits.

Before getting started, a word of advice about what you need to do when you get to the unit. When you arrive, find the Aviation Safety Officer immediately and examine your unit's safety programs. Get to know the ASO and the safety program. You need to become involved, totally integrated into the Army Safety Program.

Objectives

- a. Identify the components of the Army Aviation Safety Program and describe the responsibilities of all personnel in all phases of accident prevention.
- b. Use the Army's Risk Management model to manage hazards in the aviation environment.
- c. Supervise the unit Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) program.
- d. Gain the basic knowledge required to serve as the Flight Surgeon on an Army Aircraft Mishap Investigation Board.





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